

First North American Regional TIES Meeting

The first North American regional meeting of TIES took place in Seattle June 19-21, 2007. Ninety registered participants enjoyed a variety of talks, many geared towards the conference theme of “Climate change and its environmental effects: monitoring, measuring, and predicting.”

The conference started in the afternoon of the first day with a session on inference for mechanistic models, with Tilmann Gneiting, Mark Berliner and Derek Bingham as speakers. The first keynote address followed, with Paul Switzer presenting “Regional time trends in climate model simulations.” The opening mixer, with five poster presentations, concluded the first day’s activities.

The second day saw two invited sessions on Monitoring the environment and biota on landscape to continental scales. The speakers were Jay Breidt, Jason Legg, Gretchen Moisen, Don Stevens and Mevin Hooten. An invited session on Paleoclimatic temperature reconstruction had talks by Edward Cook, David Schneider and Bo Li. Elizabeth Shamseldin, Georg Lindgren and Slava Kharin were invited speakers in a session on Assessing trends in extreme climate events. In parallel, a special session by conference sponsor National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration included Bill Peterson, Peter Lawson, Kerym Aydin and Lisa Crozier. The conference dinner took place in one of the dorms, but the catered food was several levels above regular dorm food!

The final day had a morning invited session on Agroclimate risk assessment with Nathaniel Newlands, Jim Ramsay and Nhu Le. After the coffee break two parallel invited sessions took place: one on The role of statistics in public policy with Paul McElhany, Tanja Srebotnjak and Marianne Turley, and the other on Measuring biodiversity and species interaction, having speakers Andy Royle and Emily Silverman.

The second keynote address was by TIES president David Brillinger, and was entitled “Probabilistic risk modeling at the wildland-urban interface: the 2003 Cedar Fire.” The final invited session was about Forests, fires and stochastic modeling. Speakers were Mike Flannigan, Haiganoush Preisler and Steve Taylor.

Throughout the program there were contributed sessions on Inference for mechanistic and stochastic models; Spatial methods; Methods in ecology; Forest fires, remote sensing and stochastic models; and Climate.

The program committee consisted of Peter Guttorp, University of Washington (chair), Ashley Steel, NOAA Fisheries Seattle, Emily Silverman, USFWS Maryland, Joel Reynolds, USFWS Alaska, Eliane Rodrigues, UNAM, Mexico City and Jim Zidek, University of British Columbia Vancouver BC. The local organizing committee was Paul Sampson, University of Washington, together with Guttorp and Steel.

The conference had financial support from the US National Science Foundation, the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In particular this enabled us to fund the travel for many of the 26 students at the meeting.

We are hopeful that there will be another North American Regional Meeting, perhaps in 2009. Don Stevens of Oregon State (stevens@science.oregonstate.edu) is looking for volunteers to help organize it.